INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NON HIT SHOOTING EVALUATION

UNIT: Century Station
DATE: Feb. 27, 2003
TIME: 1140 hours
LOCATION: [redacted] East 125th Street, Los Angeles
URN#: 003-03858-2132-055
IAB#: SH 2082885

NATURE OF INCIDENT: Deputy Morrow responded to a residential burglary in progress call. Deputy Morrow saw a male suspect run from the location south into a neighboring yard. The suspect turned and pointed a gun at Deputy Morrow, Morrow fearing for his safety, fired four times at the suspect. Initially it was believed that the suspect received a wound to his right hand from a ricochet round. It was later determined by Homicide that the shooting was a non hit shooting.

COMPLETED BY: Sergeant Henry J. Reyes
Internal Affairs Bureau

DATE: April 30, 2004

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY
USE OF DEADLY FORCE
DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING
003-03858-2132-055
SH2082885

On Thursday, February 27, 2003, Sergeants Henry Reyes and David Stunson, and Lieutenant Ben Seno of the Internal Affairs Bureau, responded to [redacted] East 125th Street, Los Angeles, regarding a hit, deputy involved shooting incident. Upon our arrival, we were briefed by Lieutenant Dan Rosenberg of the Sheriff's Homicide Bureau. Lieutenant Rosenberg advised that Deputy Travis Morrow fired at an armed burglary suspect, when the suspect pointed a handgun at him. The suspect sustained a wound to the top of his right hand from a ricochet bullet and a dog bite. On February 28, 2003, Homicide Bureau found blood evidence inside the burglarized residence consistent with the injury to Subject [redacted] right hand. Based on the new evidence, Homicide Bureau deemed the shooting, a non-hit. Lab results of the blood evidence confirmed that the blood was not human. Homicide Bureau resumed the role of investigating the incident. The case was presented to the District Attorney's Office for review. On February 15, 2004, the District Attorney's Office found that the shooting was justified.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL
Deputy Travis Morrow #[redacted]
04/96 - present Century Station
[redacted]

SUBJECT(S): [redacted]
See page 175 of Homicide's book located in Exhibit A.

WITNESSES:

Sanchez, Robert	Deputy Sheriff
Dorsten, John	Deputy Sheriff
Tobin, Daniel	Deputy Sheriff
[redacted]	Deputy Sheriff
Bayes Robert	Deputy Sheriff
Kopperud, Ronald	Deputy Sheriff
Meeder, Brian	Sergeant
[redacted]	Civilian
	Civilian
	Civilian

WITNESSES:



[redacted]

Civilian
Civilian
Civilian
Civilian
Burglary suspect
Burglary suspect

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE'S STATEMENTS:

Deputy Travis Morrow said he was working a uniformed patrol assignment (213A) along with his partner Deputy Kopperud. Morrow said they received a radio call of a burglary in progress at [redacted] East 125th Street. Morrow said he coordinated assisting units via L-TAC, and requested an air unit. Morrow was advised that no air unit was available. Morrow said that information was broadcast giving the description of a male suspect, look out, at the front of the location. He said once the units were in place, they simultaneously approached the location. Morrow said they detained the male look out, at the front of the residence. Morrow said while this was occurring, he heard the sound of glass breaking. Morrow said the sound was coming from the rear of the burglarized residence. Morrow said he looked in the direction of the sound and saw a black male (wearing a royal blue sweatshirt) fall out of a window at the rear of the burglarized location.

Deputy Morrow saw the male run south into the rear yard of the location. Morrow said he yelled at Deputies [redacted] and Bayes to take a position on the eastside of the burglarized location. Deputy Morrow said he motioned for Deputy Tobin to follow him into the rear yard. Morrow said he ran into the rear yard of the location followed by Deputy Tobin. Morrow explained that Kopperud remained at the front of the location detaining the "Look out" suspect. Morrow said he lost sight of the suspect. Morrow said he believed the suspect jumped the south fence, into the yard directly behind the location. Morrow said he stood on the entry door to a dog house and heard Deputy Sanchez yell "Let me see your hands","Let me see your hands." Morrow said he looked over the block fence separating the two yards and into the rear yard ([redacted]) where he believed the suspect had fled. Morrow said he exposed about 1 ½ feet of his upper body as he did so. Morrow said he saw the same male suspect he saw fall out of the window, running north from the eastside of the location, back towards him. Morrow said he heard Sanchez yelling additional commands. Morrow said he saw that the suspect was holding a charcoal colored gun in his right hand.

Morrow said he yelled at the suspect, "Let me see your hands, Let me see your hands, Sheriff's Department, Show me your hands." He said the suspect looked directly at him and pointed the gun in his direction. Morrow said he was scared and he believed the suspect was going to shoot him. Morrow said that in fear for his safety, he fired a two round burst at the suspect and ducked down behind the block wall fence. Morrow said when he looked again, he saw that the suspect was still pointing the gun at him, so he fired another two round burst. Morrow said he saw the suspect continue to run south, down the westside of the residence and out of sight. Morrow said he saw Deputy Sanchez round the corner at the eastside of the residence. Morrow said that at no time was his foot on the block wall fence.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE'S STATEMENTS:

Deputy Morrow said he broadcast that shots were fired and gave the suspect's last seen direction of travel. Morrow said that they determined that a burglary had occurred at the initial location. Morrow added that the area was contained and the suspect ([redacted]) was located by a K-9 unit and arrested.

IAB Note: To review photographs of location where incident occurred see Exhibit A.

IAB Note: Deputy Morrow's gun was inspected by Homicide investigators. Morrow's gun contained one round chambered and eleven rounds in the magazine. Morrow told investigators that prior to the shooting the gun contained 16 rounds.

WITNESSES STATEMENTS:

Deputy Robert Sanchez said that he and his partner Deputy Dorsten responded to a burglary in progress call on 125th Street. Sanchez said Deputy Morrow coordinated the responding units and assigned them to take 126th Street, one street south of the burglary location. He said he heard Morrow broadcast that they were detaining one suspect and he heard a broadcast that another suspect was running south. Sanchez said they stopped their vehicle and began walking west, along the north sidewalk of 126th Street. Sanchez said he tried to locate corresponding numbers to the burglary location. Sanchez said he saw a black male, crouching down along the driveway on eastside of the residence located at [redacted]. Sanchez said the male was dressed in baggy blue sweats and had his hands at waist level, as if he was holding something. Deputy Sanchez said he yelled at the suspect "Freeze, show me your hands." He said the suspect turned and ran north toward the rear yard of the location. Sanchez said he was approximately 10-15 feet behind the suspect. Sanchez said he again yelled "Stop Freeze. Show me your hands." Sanchez said he momentarily lost sight of the suspect as the suspect ran into the backyard of the location. Sanchez said as he turned the corner into the backyard, he saw Morrow fire his weapon three or four times in the direction of the suspect. Sanchez said Morrow was on partially on the fence, and had one foot and one hand as if he was climbing on top of the fence. Deputy Robert Sanchez said he saw the suspect go over the fence located on the westside of the yard and into an adjoining yard. Sanchez said he slipped and fell on the grass. He said he continued following the suspect west into the adjoining yard. Sanchez said he saw the suspect run in a southwest direction and he yelled for the suspect to freeze.

Deputy John Dorsten said he was working with Deputy Sanchez when they were directed to contain 126th Street. Dorsten said they stopped their vehicle and began walking west along the north sidewalk. Dorsten said he was behind Sanchez approximately 15-20 feet, when he saw Sanchez pointing his gun. Dorsten said he heard Sanchez yell "Stop". Dorsten said he saw that Sanchez was chasing a male black, who was wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt into the rear yard. Dorsten said he was about 15 feet behind Sanchez who was now at the northeast corner of that house. Dorsten said he heard three or 4 gunshots. Dorsten said he could not tell who fired the shots. He said as he ran into the rear yard of the location he saw Sanchez slip.

WITNESSES STATEMENTS:

Deputy Dorsten said he also saw Deputy Morrow and that Morrow had his gun drawn. Dorsten said he heard Morrow broadcast "Shots fired" traffic over Sheriff's radio. Dorsten said Sanchez was running west toward a fence to the adjoining property. Dorsten said he never saw the suspect again but heard radio traffic that the suspect was running west. Dorsten said he helped Sanchez over a chain link fence and they ran south along the west side of that property and onto 126th Street. Dorsten said he was not present when the suspect was taken into custody.

Deputy [redacted] said he was monitoring the radio and responded to the Burglary in progress call on 125th Street. [redacted] said he took a containment position to the east of the burglarized residence. [redacted] said he saw the a male black (Suspect [redacted] being detained. He heard Deputy Morrow say that someone was running from the location. [redacted] said he saw Morrow run south toward the rear of the location. [redacted] said approximately 5 or 10 seconds later he heard 4 gunshots. Deputy [redacted] said he heard emergency traffic being broadcast by Deputy Morrow of shots fired. [redacted] said he remained on the eastside of the location and did not see the shooting. [redacted] said he later saw the suspect running in a northwest direction across Central Avenue. [redacted] said a containment of was established and a K-9 search was conducted. He said he assisted K-9 Deputy Salinas, in the search for the suspect. He heard both verbal and a taped announcements advising the suspect to surrender prior to the actual deployment of the K-9. [redacted] said that Suspect [redacted] was subsequently located, bitten by the K-9 dog and taken into custody.

Deputy Daniel Tobin said he was working with Deputy [redacted] and Deputy Bayes when they responded to the burglary in progress call on 125th Street. Deputy Tobin said he initially took a containment position on the eastside of the burglarized house. He saw a male black (Suspect [redacted] being detained and simultaneously heard Deputy Morrow yell that a suspect was running out of the back of the residence. Tobin said he heard the sound of glass breaking. Tobin said he ran to the rear of the residence behind Deputy Morrow. Tobin said Deputy Morrow stood on a dog house or on top of a table looking into the rear yard of the house directly behind the burglarized residence. Tobin said he felt that Morrow's back was exposed to the burglarized location so he turned, facing the burglarized location with his back to Deputy Morrow. Tobin said he heard four gunshots in two round increments. He said he yelled at Morrow to get down. Tobin said he turned and saw that Morrow was the one that fired his weapon into the rear yard of the adjoining location. Tobin said he heard Morrow broadcast that the suspect was running west. Tobin said he ran to the front of the location and then ran westbound. He said he saw the suspect running west across Central Avenue. Tobin said he broadcast the suspect location and a containment was sent up to the west. Tobin said he heard numerous announcements advising that a K-9 dog, was going to be deployed. Tobin added that he did not actually see the suspect taken into custody.

Deputy Robert Bayes said he responded to the burglary in progress call along with Deputies [redacted] and Tobin. Bayes said when they arrived at the location, he and Kopperud detained a male suspect ([redacted]). Bayes said he saw Deputies Morrow and Tobin run south toward the rear of the location. Bayes said he heard two, two round volleys of gunshot coming from the rear yard of the location. Bayes said he saw Morrow and Tobin back out of the location.

WITNESSES STATEMENTS:

Deputy Bayes said Tobin told him the suspect had gone over the wall at the rear of the location and had gone west. Bayes added that he later spoke with the owners of the burglarized residence and learned that two guns had been stolen.

Deputy Ronald Kopperud said he was working with Deputy Morrow when they received a call of a burglary in progress. Kopperud said Morrow coordinated the call and they drove to [redacted] 125th Street. Koppperud said they detained a male (Suspect [redacted] at the front of the location. Kopperud said he heard someone running inside the location. Kopperud said his attention was then drawn to the southern portion of the residence. Kopperud said he saw a male black who was wearing a blue sweatshirt, at the end of the driveway. Kopperud said he heard Morrow say "There he goes." Kopperud said he saw Morrow and Tobin run to the rear of the residence following the suspect. Deputy Kopperud said he detained and handcuffed [redacted] in the backseat of his police vehicle. Kopperud said he heard approximately four gunshots coming from the rear of the location. Kopperud described the sequence of gunshots as two gunshots, followed by two additional gunshots. Kopperud said he heard radio traffic advising that the suspect was running west.

Sergeant Brian Meeder said he was working as a field supervisor and responded to the location after hearing broadcast information, of a residential burglary and that deputies were involved in a foot pursuit. Sergeant Meeder said that the burglarized residence had not been cleared and he assisted in clearing the location. Meeder said he was told at that time, by Deputy Morrow, that a shooting occurred. He said Morrow told him the burglary suspect had pointed a gun at him and that he (Morrow) had fired in a southerly direction at the suspect. Meeder said Morrow was unsure if any of his shots actually struck the suspect. Meeder said he did not question Morrow in detail and drove Morrow to Sergeant Hernandez' location (Command Post). Meeder said he drove back to 126th street where he contacted Deputy Meza. Meeder said Deputy Meza told him that he (Meza) located a gun in a trash can along the southwest side of the residence on 126th Street, directly behind the burglarized residence. Meeder said he later drove Morrow the Martin Luther King Hospital where Morrow positively identified Subject [redacted] as the person that had pointed the gun at him.

Witness [redacted] said he lives [redacted] [redacted] said he saw a male ([redacted] being handcuffed and detained by deputies. [redacted] said he heard someone yelling "Come here, get down." [redacted] said he heard deputy yell "Stop and Freeze." He said he heard gunshots immediately after the commands. [redacted] said he saw a deputy running south down the driveway of the location.

Witness [redacted] said she lives in the house ([redacted] [redacted] to the burglarized residence. [redacted] estimated that the suspects were at her neighbors house 20-30 minutes prior to the deputies arrival. [redacted] said she saw the deputies detain one of the males at the front of the house. [redacted] said she saw a male suspect ([redacted] running south from the driveway of the location and into the back yard. [redacted] said she saw a deputy with his gun drawn chasing the suspect. She heard the deputy yelling "Wait, stop" in a loud voice. [redacted] said she heard the command "Stop, freeze" at least four or five times before she heard five or six gunshots.

WITNESSES STATEMENTS:

Witness [redacted] said she lives in the same house as [redacted] She said she saw a male ([redacted] being detained and saw another male ([redacted] run from the police. [redacted] said she heard the deputy yell "Stop, stop" as he chased the male. She said she heard the chain gate in the neighbor's driveway rattling, as if someone had jumped over it. [redacted] said she heard approximately five gunshots, two or three minutes later.

Witness [redacted] lives at the same residence as [redacted] said she was watching what was happening from a window on the eastside of her house. [redacted] said she saw deputies detain a male ([redacted] in the street in front of the location. She saw another male ([redacted] on the side of the house, next to the gate, at the driveway.

Witness [redacted] said she heard a deputy order the male ([redacted] to "Stop, freeze" but the male ran. She saw the deputies chase that male ([redacted] toward the backyard of the location with their guns drawn. She said the deputy was about ten feet away from the suspect as he chased him. [redacted] said the male ([redacted] that was running, did not have anything in his hands. [redacted] said the male on the side of the house ([redacted] never left that location (side of house, driveway) until he was chased by the police. [redacted] added that she heard one gunshot and then looked away.

Witness [redacted] said she was sleeping in her bedroom (northeast) during the incident. [redacted] said she was awakened by the sound of approximately five or six gunshots.

Witness [redacted] said she was standing in her driveway when she heard five or six gunshots. [redacted] said she saw two males blacks running from the westside of [redacted]

Witness [redacted] said she was standing in her front yard when she heard a few gunshots. [redacted] said she saw two male blacks running from the rear yard of [redacted] added that one male ran west and the other male ran east.

Burglary Suspect [redacted] said he and [redacted] were in the house ([redacted] 125th Street) with when the police arrived. He said while in the house, he found a handgun which he handed to [redacted] to hold. [redacted] said when the police arrived he fled through a window followed by [redacted] said he jumped a fence south of the burglarized location ([redacted] and went west. [redacted] said he dropped the gun, holster, magazine and rounds at that area (middle of house [redacted] before he climbed onto a trash can and jumped another fence into that yard ([redacted]). [redacted] said he heard gunshots and then ran south to the street. [redacted] added that he had not spoken to [redacted] or [redacted] since the incident occurred.

Burglary Suspect [redacted] denied being involved in the burglary which occurred at [redacted] 125th Street. [redacted] said that he was at the location with his cousin [redacted] and [redacted] said he saw that [redacted] inside of the house at [redacted] 125th Street. [redacted] said when the police arrived he was detained and handcuffed by deputies in the street. [redacted] said he saw [redacted] come out from the back or side of the location, near the driveway.

WITNESSES STATEMENTS:
Suspect [redacted] said he saw Deputy Travis shoot at someone from the driveway. [redacted] added that he did not see who, Deputy Travis was shooting at. [redacted] said he heard someone yell "Mother Fucker, stop" immediately after the shots were fired. [redacted] said he heard the deputies talking (unknown who) and trying to "Twist it up." [redacted] added that he heard one of the deputies (unknown who) say, "Tell the Sarge about everything."

INVOLVED SUBJECT'S STATEMENT
Subject [redacted] said he drove to 125th Street with two other males known to as [redacted] (Suspect [redacted]) and [redacted] (Suspect [redacted]). [redacted] said [redacted] went to rear of a [redacted] house (burglarized residence) and he followed remaining at the corner of the residence. [redacted] said [redacted] remained at the front of the location. [redacted] said he saw [redacted] break a window and go inside the residence. [redacted] said he did not go inside the burglarized residence. [redacted] said [redacted] was inside the location for approximately 5 minutes before the police showed up. [redacted] said he saw [redacted] climb out of the window and heard the police say "Freeze" to [redacted] He said he saw [redacted] run west and jump the fence into the neighboring yard. [redacted] said he saw [redacted] run towards the back of that house and jump the fence into a yard just south of where they were. [redacted] said he jumped the fence into the yard just south of the burglarized residence. [redacted] said he ran toward the front of that house and saw two deputy sheriffs. He heard one of the deputies yell "Freeze." [redacted] said that the other deputy was pointing a gun at him. [redacted] said he ran toward the backyard where he had originally come from.

Subject [redacted] said as he ran, he saw a deputy's head looking over the wall. [redacted] said the deputy immediately began to shot at him three or four times. [redacted] said he went to his hands and knees and continued moving in a westerly direction. [redacted] said he jumped the west fence into the neighboring yard. [redacted] said he could hear the deputy that shot at him yell "Freeze." [redacted] said he continued running westbound into two more yards and then he ran south down the eastside of that house. [redacted] said when he came out on the street he saw a male white with a video camera near a burgundy car. He saw the male pointing in his direction and continued to run west across Central Avenue in a northwesterly direction. [redacted] said he hid underneath a blue tarp for approximately one hour and heard canine announcements being made. [redacted] said he understood the announcements but did not want to surrender. [redacted] said that after several minutes he heard deputies entering the yard and was bitten on his left arm by a police dog. [redacted] added that he never possessed or pointed a handgun at deputies.

> **IAB Note: Subject [redacted] was interviewed by Detective Lillienfield and asked about how he ([redacted]) received the injury to his right hand. [redacted] told Detective Lillienfield that the injury occurred as a result of being struck by a ricochet bullet fired at him by a deputy (Morrow).**

INJURIES: Subject [redacted] sustained a laceration to the top of his right hand and puncture wounds to his left arm from the dog bite. The dog bite incident was handled by Sergeant Mayer of Special Enforcement Bureau and presented at Force Review and deemed in policy in June 2003.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:
Numerous pieces of evidence recovered at the scene of shooting, see page 29 through page 35 of Homicide Book.

INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS:
I saw 9 mm casings, along the block fence wall separating [redacted] 125th and [redacted]treets. I saw a bullet strike mark on the west block wall separating the rear yards of [redacted] Streets.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:
9mm, Beretta Handgun.

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECTS:
9 mm, Ruger Handgun.

PROPERTY DAMAGE:
Bullet strike marks, located on the west block wall of [redacted]

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR:
Homicide Detectives Martinez and Leslie.

LIGHTING OR WEATHER CONDITIONS:
Daylight hours, clear day.